

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of the claims replaces all earlier listings and all earlier versions.

1. (Currently Amended) An item comprising:

- at least one product; and
- a flexible packaging film forming a sealed enclosure containing the at

least one product and an amount of gas, the film having a precut line,

wherein the amount of gas is chosen so that a consumer can grasp the item in such a way as to compress the item so as to increase the pressure of the gas causing the packaging film to be tensioned around the precut line to such a point that bending the item causes the enclosure to open by bursting with the film to rupture rupturing instantaneously along the most part of the precut line thereby giving access to the at least one product contained in the opened enclosure.

2. (Previously Presented) The item as claimed in claim 1, wherein the item is arranged in such a way that rupture occurs only along the precut line.

3. (Previously Presented) The item as claimed in claim 1, wherein the film has a joining line contiguous with the precut line and the item is arranged in such a way that rupture occurs along at least the entire part of the precut line that lies away from the joining line.

4. (Previously Presented) The item as claimed in claim 1, wherein the item has one longer dimension and the precut line extends in a plane perpendicular to this dimension.

5. (Previously Presented) The item as claimed in claim 1, containing at least two products, the precut line extending opposite a space between the two products or two of the products.

6. (Previously Presented) The item as claimed in claim 5, containing two products of approximately the same dimensions.

7. (Previously Presented) The item as claimed in claim 1, wherein the film has at least two superposed layers of material and the precut line extends in one of the layers, with reference to a thickness of the film.

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Previously Presented) The item as claimed in claim 7, wherein the precut line extends through the entire thickness of one of the layers.

10. (Previously Presented) The item as claimed in claim 7, wherein the film has at least two superposed layers of material and the precut line extends in one of the layers defining an outer face of the item.

11. (Previously Presented) The item as claimed in claim 1, wherein the film has a layer of polypropylene in which the precut line extends.

12. (Previously Presented) The item as claimed in claim 1, wherein the film has a layer of polyethylene through which the precut line does not pass.

13. (Previously Presented) The item as claimed in claim 1, wherein the product is a food product.

14. (Previously Presented) The item as claimed in claim 1 wherein the product is frozen.

15. - 16. (Cancelled).

17. (Currently Amended) A packaging machine comprising means for producing a sealed enclosure from a flexible film and for enclosing inside the enclosure at least one product and some gas together forming an item, the film having a precut line, wherein the machine is arranged to enclose in the enclosure an amount of gas such that a consumer can grasp the item in such a way as to compress the item so as to increase the pressure of the gas causing the packaging film to be tensioned around the precut line to such a point that bending the item causes the enclosure to open by bursting with the film

~~to rupture~~ rupturing instantaneously along the most part of the precut line thereby giving access to the at least one product.

18. (Previously Presented) The item as claimed in claim 10, wherein the precut line extends in one of the layers defining an outer face of the item without extending into another of the layers defining an inner face of the item.

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Previously Presented) The item as claimed in claim 1, wherein the product is solid.

21. (Previously Presented) The item as claimed in claim 5, wherein the at least two products are solid.

22. (Cancelled).

23. (New) An item comprising:

- at least one product; and
- a flexible packaging film forming a sealed enclosure containing the at least one product and an amount of gas, the film having a precut line,

wherein the item has one longer dimension and the precut line extends transverse to the longer dimension in a central section of the sealed enclosure;

wherein the item is arranged so that a consumer can grasp the item in both hands near opposite ends of the longer dimension of the item leaving said central section free, in the same way as he would grasp a stick with a view to bending or breaking the stick; and

wherein the amount of gas is chosen so that a consumer can grasp the item in both hands near said opposite ends leaving said central section free, in such a way as to compress the item so as to increase the pressure of the gas causing the packaging film to be tensioned around the precut line to such a point that bending the item causes the enclosure to open by bursting with the film rupturing instantaneously along the most part of the precut line thereby giving access to the at least one product contained in the opened enclosure.

24. (New) The item as claimed in claim 23, containing at least two products, the precut line extending opposite a space between the two products or two of the products.

25. (New) The item as claimed in claim 24, containing two products of approximately the same dimensions.